

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, November 12, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Private.

Hermitage, November 12, 1838.

My dear sir, Yours of the 19th ultimo came to hand in due course of mail. Mr. Kendell left me on the 9th instant and Nashville on the 11th in improved health, which I hope will improve on his return journey.

I received your inclosure, Mr. Adams letter. I have give it a reading—it gives evidence of his hypocrasy and duplicity, and shews that he has no regard for truth. Col. Howard will have no great task to prove this by refference to the records of the State Department, and the living heads of the Department of Mr. Munroe. Mr. Munroe told me in the fall 1819, on his visit to the west, that Mr. Adams had prepared a treaty, surrendering to Spain the navigation of the red river and arkansa, which he rejected and threw under the table, after which the one ratified was adopted and sent to the senate.¹ Mr. Calhoun, I expect knows all about these things. Col. Howard can apply to him as Mr. Adams has revealed the Cabinet Secretes. His speech and letter affords Col. Howard and his associates on the committee such an open field to prostrate this weak, and wicked old man, that I am content with the letter I have written to leave it with him and Genl. Droomgold.²

¹ There seems to be no foundation for this story.

² G. C. Dromgoole, M. C. from Virginia 1835–1841.

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The political news from all quarters are truly cheering—if Newyork has come forth as you have predicted all is well, and the frauds in Pennsylvania and Newjersy at the late elections, to deprive the people of their chosen representatives will be rebuked, and those who have committed the frauds amply punished. These frauds are committed to bring into disrepute the representative system, by destroying the purity of elections, thereby to disgust the virtuous portion of the people with our government, where such frauds are permitted to exist and the perpetrators go unpunished.

I am anxious to hear the result of the Newjersy canvass, and whether it be possible, that the opposition can profit by the fraudulent returns of the minority judges in Pennsylvania so that these members will be able to take their seats and elect a senator. I hope their will be sufficient strength in the Pennsylvania Legislature to prevent these minority members from taking their seats at all, untill the whole matter is investigated.

We all rejoice to hear of the good health of our dear friends Mrs. Blair and daughter, and your own, and all unite in our good wishes for a continuation of that greatest of blessings to you and yours. sarah and Andrew with the dear little ones unite with me in our kind salutations to you all; and believe me

y'r friend

P.S. will you please to enquire of Major Lewis, to whom present our kind regards, whether the sheets wrote by Major Lee, (the commencement of the History of my life) is in his possession, if not, does he know where they are, and whether I can get them and inform me and oblige